

Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites Family Programs – 2007

Eleanor's Woodland Walk and Nature Study

Explore the wild side of Val-Kill! Walk the woodland trails that Eleanor Roosevelt enjoyed and look for wild life she wrote about in her "My Day" newspaper column. Learn to create a nature guidebook using bark rubbings, leaf tracings, identification of animal tracks and the sounds of the woods.

Suggested clothing and equipment: long pants, hiking shoes or boots, a hat, bug spray and sun screen. Meet at the Val-Kill Visitor Center and Bookstore. Ages 5 and up. One hour.

August 15 (11:00AM).

That Magical Place Called Val-Kill - A Historic Grounds Tour

"The peace of it is divine," Eleanor Roosevelt wrote of the place she named Val-Kill. This Ranger led tour focuses on the grounds of the property and why this "magical place" was so special to Mrs. Roosevelt.

Suggested clothing and equipment: long pants, hiking shoes or boots, a hat, bug spray and sun screen. Meet at the Val-Kill Visitor Center and Bookstore. Ages 10 and up. One hour.

July 20th (11:00 AM) and August 3rd (11:00AM).

Learn to Knit Like Eleanor

Whether she was traveling or listening to an important presentation by a representative at the United Nations, Mrs. Roosevelt was often seen knitting. Learn to make your own knitting needles and the basic stitches to knit a simple product. A children's tour of the Eleanor's home is included.

Meet at the Val Kill Visitors Center and Bookstore. Ages 5 and up. One hour.

July 7th (11:00AM).

Eleanor Everywhere!

Eleanor Roosevelt seemed to be everywhere! Learn about the countries Mrs. Roosevelt visited – what she saw, the native dress, foods and what she brought back as gifts. A story from one of the countries will be read. Will it be India? Israel? Russia? Or maybe Japan?

Meet at the Val-Kill Visitors Center/Bookstore. Ages 4 to 8. One hour.

July 15th (11:00AM), August 5th (11:00AM) and August 16th (11:00AM).

Kill In Dutch Means Stream, So Who Lives In The Fall Kill?

Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt loved to picnic along the Fall Kill, a stream so beautiful that Eleanor eventually built her retreat there. Take a scientific look at the Fall Kill ecosystem and its inhabitants.

Suggested clothing and equipment: long pants, hiking shoes or boots, a hat, bug spray and sun screen. Meet at the Val Kill Visitors Center and Bookstore. Ages 5 and up. One hour.

July 27th (11:00AM) and August 19th (11:00AM)

FDR and Forestry Hike

This guided hike describes a century of change on the Roosevelt Farm land between Routes 9 and 9G while including a visit to one of the President's tree plantations.

Suggested clothing and equipment: long pants, hiking shoes or boots, a hat, bug spray and sun screen. This program starts at the Roosevelt Forest Trailhead on Rt. 9 opposite the Home of FDR National Historic Site. One hour.

July 22nd (2:00PM)

Walking in the Foot Steps of Nelson Brown – FDR’s Forester

FDR realized the importance of having his lands under proper forest management and commissioned Professor Nelson Brown from the College of Forestry to develop a management plan and implement forestry practices. This tour will introduce you to FDR’s tree plantations, techniques for managing forests and the ways that data collection is used.

Suggested clothing and equipment: long pants, hiking shoes or boots, a hat, bug spray and sun screen. This program starts at the Roosevelt Forest Trailhead on Rt. 9 opposite the Home of FDR National Historic Site. One hour.

July 20th (2:00PM), August 11th (11:00AM), and August 31st (11:00AM).

The Roosevelt Farm Lane Hike: an Adventure in Time

Hike along the roads that FDR had built so that he could access his forest plantations and drive to Val-Kill from Springwood. Part talk, part walk, participants that complete the hike are also one fifth closer to earning the “Walkabout 2007” patch from The Hyde Park Healthy Trails program.

Suggested clothing and equipment: long pants, hiking shoes or boots, a hat, bug spray and sun screen. This program starts at the Roosevelt Forest Trailhead on Rt. 9 opposite the Home of FDR National Historic Site. 3.6 mile round trip. Two and one half hours.

July 13th (2:00PM), August 2nd (11:00AM), August 23rd (2:00PM) September 1st (2:00PM).

Hike the Vanderbilt Loop!

This moderate hike takes place at the Vanderbilt National Historic Site and features walking on park roads, through forest, up steep hills and rewards with magnificent views of the Hudson River. Part talk, part walk, participants that complete the hike are also one fifth closer to earning the “Walkabout 2007” patch from The Hyde Park Healthy Trails program.

Suggested clothing and equipment: long pants, hiking shoes or boots, a hat, bug spray and sun screen. Meet in the parking lot at Vanderbilt Mansion 2.8 mile hike. Two hours.

July 28th (2:00PM)

The Val-Kill Loop Hike

This easy hike takes place in the woods and on the grounds of Val-Kill, the home of Eleanor Roosevelt and replicates one of the First Lady's favorite walks. Part talk, part walk, participants that complete the hike are also one fifth closer to earning the "Walkabout 2007" patch from The Hyde Park Healthy Trails program.

Suggested clothing and equipment: long pants, hiking shoes or boots, a hat, bug spray and sun screen. Meet at the Val-Kill Visitor Center and Bookstore. A one mile loop. One hour.

July 19th (11:00PM) August 3rd (2:00PM) August 29th (11:00AM)

Kipling Stories at the Val-Kill Doll House

Eleanor Roosevelt had many children as guests at Val-Kill to whom she would often read her favorite Kipling stories. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets and enjoy as Kipling is read again under the shade trees at the Val-Kill Dollhouse.

Suitable for all ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Meet at the Val-Kill Visitors Center/Bookstore.

July 14th (2:00PM) August 4th (11:00AM) August 9th (2:00PM) August 18th (2:00PM),
August 24th (11:00AM)

Be a Reading Ranger: Stories At Roosevelt Education Center

Stories will be read about the Roosevelt animals and pets, farming and the lifestyle of people of the Roosevelt era.

Meet at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center at the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site. One hour.

July 14th (2:00PM) August 4th (11:00AM) August 9th (2:00PM) August 18th (2:00PM)
August 24th (11:00AM)

19th Century Games!

An afternoon without videogames, television, or an iPod? Play like children did in the 19th century with Jacob's ladder, jump ropes or the Hoop and Stick.

Dress to be outside, long pants and sneakers are recommended. These games are suitable for children 4 and up and for big kids of all ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Meet at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center at the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site.

July 25th (11:00AM) August 8th (11:00AM) August 25th (11:00AM) August 31st (2:00PM)

The President's Marigolds (Puppet Program):

Meet President Roosevelt (as a hand puppet) who shares stories of his love of plants and animals. Children will tour the Roosevelt Greenhouse and stables and receive a marigold grown in the greenhouse to take home.

July 11th (11:00AM)

FDR's Boyhood Tour

Tour the estate and learn about young Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the future President. An hour filled with fun and activities!

July 26th (11:00AM) August 8th (2:00PM) August 25th (2:00PM)

FDR's Fine Feathered Friends- A Puppet Show:

Learn about FDR's love of the outdoors and conservation in this half hour puppet show.

July 27th (2:00PM) August 10th (11:00AM)

Out of the House and Into the Woods

Hike into the woods on the estate that FDR grew up on and loved. The hike will feature stops at the ice pond, Meriches Kill Creek and Roosevelt Cove. Part talk, part walk, participants that complete the hike are also one fifth closer to earning the “Walkabout 2007” patch from The Hyde Park Healthy Trails program.

Suggested clothing and equipment: long pants, hiking shoes or boots, a hat, bug spray and sun screen. Meet at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center at the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site. The hike is 1.75 miles long and is steep in sections. Two and one half hours.

July 25th (2:00PM) August 9th (11:00AM)

Herbivores, Carnivores, Omnivores, Oh My!

Learn about wildlife at the life-long home of FDR first hand by examining animal pelts and studying various skeletons of some of our major natural inhabitants. The program includes a woods walk to discover signs of the creatures of the forest.

Suggested clothing and equipment: long pants, hiking shoes or boots, a hat, bug spray and sun screen. Meet at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center at the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site. One hour.

July 18th (2:00PM) August 1st (11:00AM) August 22nd (2:00PM)

FDR's Excellent Streamside Adventure

Take an exploratory trip to the Meriches Kill Creek for an in depth fun and scientific look at this ecosystem during this hour and a half program.

Suggested clothing and equipment: long pants, hiking shoes or boots, a hat, bug spray and sun screen. Meet at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center at the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site. One and a half hours.

July 14th (11:00AM) August 11th (2:00PM) August 23rd (2:00PM) August 30th (2:00PM)

It's a Good Day for a Hike from Val-Kill to Top Cottage

Be one of the first to experience a hike through the woods from Eleanor Roosevelt's retreat to FDR's retreat on the newly opened Top Cottage Trail. The trail is steep in some areas. Part talk, part walk, participants that complete the hike are also one fifth closer to earning the "Walkabout 2007" patch from The Hyde Park Healthy Trails program.

Suggested clothing and equipment: long pants, hiking shoes or boots, a hat, bug spray and sun screen. Meet at the Val-Kill Visitor Center and Bookstore. One and a half hours.

August 4th (2:00PM) August 30th (11:00AM)

Vanderbilt Landscape Walking Tour

Walk the historic landscape at the Vanderbilt Historic Site and learn about 200 years of stewardship on one of the oldest existing American country places. The walk concludes in the beautiful Italian Gardens maintained by the Frederick W. Vanderbilt Garden Association volunteers. Bring your camera!

Suggested clothing and equipment: walking shoes, sun screen, and bug spray. Walking will be on lawn and gravel paths. Meet at the Vanderbilt Visitor Center.

July 15th (2:00PM) July 29th (2:00PM) August 12th (2:00PM)

Roosevelt's Dairy, from Grass to Butter

Did you know the Roosevelt estate was also a working dairy farm with Alderney cows? Join a Park Ranger and learn about dairy farming, practice "milking" our model cow and make some butter.

Meet at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center at the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site.

July 13th (11:00AM) August 1st (2:00PM) August 22nd (11:00AM)

For The Love of Springwood- A Historic Site Grounds Tour

Join a Park Ranger to explore some of the "nooks and crannies" on the estate where FDR was born and raised and experience the places that were special to him.

Suggested clothing and equipment: long pants, hiking shoes or boots, a hat, bug spray and sun screen. Meet at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center at the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site. One hour.

July 11th (2:00PM) July 21st (11:00AM) August 10th (2:00PM) August 26th (2:00PM)
September 1st (11:00AM)

19th Century Laundry- Doing Laundry The Old Fashioned Way

Join a Park Ranger as she demonstrates the difficulties of getting your clothing clean before the days of permanent press, water softeners, fortified laundry detergent and automatic washers and dryers. Be prepared help wash some dirty laundry but don't bring any of your own!

Meet at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center at the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site. One hour.

August 19th (9:00AM to 1:00PM)

To Preserve and To Protect, a Day in the Life of a Curator

Meet the enemy of our national treasures - sunlight, dust and humidity. Join a park Curator to learn about techniques used to preserve our cultural heritage.

Meet at the Vanderbilt Visitor Center. Suitable for children 10 and up. One hour.

July 26th (2:00PM) August 16th (2:00PM)

FDR as a Photographer

Photography was one of FDR's many hobbies. See how he viewed his world and captured it on film from early boyhood to his honeymoon. See original photographs he took of people, architecture, dogs, family and estates.

Meet at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center at the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site. One hour.

August 15th (2:00PM)

Vanderbilt "Hired Help"

Learn how the Vanderbilt's early 20th century household staff cared for the mansion and how the National Park Service Curators cares for its collections today. And explore the "Upstairs/Downstairs" World of the Vanderbilt Mansion.

Meet at the Vanderbilt Visitor Center. One hour.

August 18th (11:00AM)

Pressing Engagements: Apples to Cider at the FDR Farm:

Join a Park Ranger for a talk about FDR's farm where apples were an important crop and were consumed out of hand, as sauce, butter, pies and cider. Apple pressing and cider making are part of this fun presentation.

Meet at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center at the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site. Ages 4 and up. An Adult must accompany children. One hour.

July 19th (2:00PM) August 2nd (2:00PM)

Flower Power! FDR's Love of Flowers, a Puppet Show

Join a Park Ranger for a puppet show which includes a visit from FDR himself (as a hand puppet) along with Sunny the flower. Learn about the parts of a flower and tour the 1907 Roosevelt greenhouse.

Meet at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center at the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site. Ages 3 and up. An adult must accompany children. One hour.

July 21st (2:00PM) August 24th (2:00PM)

What is the Big Mystery?

Discover the secrets held in the mystery bags! Growing up at FDR's home "Springwood," Franklin developed a great love of the land, including farming. This program includes solving a mystery in each bag in order to build a "picture" of whom and what was on the farm. A short walking tour takes place after the mysteries are solved.

Meet at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center at the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site. Ages 5 and up. An adult must accompany children. One hour.

July 18th (11:00AM) July 28th (11:00AM)